CHAPTER 19: STRATEGY - PART 1

SINCE OUR AIRPLANE CRASHED, FOUR DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE ARRIVED ON THE ISLAND OF GIANT INSECTS.

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE LOST MANY FRIENDS, WE HAVE SURVIVED ONLY BY THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH.

THEN, THE PATROL BOAT THAT CAME TO OUR RESCUE WAS ATTACKED BY A SCOLO-PENDRA SUB-SPINIPES.

AND EVEN OUR SECOND MEANS OF ESCAPE, THE FISHING BOATS WERE SUNK BY BARNACLES.

I HAD HOPED THAT THE CENTIPEDE THAT ATTACKED THE PATROL BOAT WOULD HAVE DISAP-PEARED,

BUT AS A LAST RESORT, WE WENT BACK TO THE THE PATROL BOAT TO TRY AND ESCAPE THE ISLAND WITH A LIFEBOAT FROM THE PATROL BOAT, AND SAW THIS...

CHAPTER 19: STRATEGY - PART 1

THIS SITUATION HAS SURPASSED MY EXPECTA-TIONS...

.....

WHY IS THE CENTIPEDE WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND THE SHIP!?

DON'T TELL ME...

!!

MUT-SUMI?

TO BEGIN WITH, WHEN A CENTIPEDE SATISFIES ITS APPETITE, IT HIDES ITSELF IN A DARK, HUMID PLACE IMMEDIATELY.

THIS IS COMMON IN BUGS, BUT...

SO IT IS UNUSUAL FOR ONE TO BE ACTIVE UNDER SUNLIGHT LIKE THIS.

I THINK THAT IT HAS MISTAKEN IT FOR PHEROMONES, SO IT SEES IT AS A BREEDING PARTNER.

PERHAPS, BECAUSE OF THE FUEL AND GUNPOWDER LOADED ON THE PATROL BOAT AND THAT BECAUSE BUGS OF THE OPPOSITE SEX GIVE OFF A VERY MINOR SCENT,

PLSS

SO, WHAT DO WE DO ...!?

JAPAN

SO IT'S LIKE THE TIME WHEN WE USED DETERGENT ON THOSE WASPS, HUH?

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL WORK, BUT...

DON'T BE IMPATIENT! TRUST THE YOUNG LADY.

YES...

CAN YOU GET IT OFF THE PATROL BOAT!?

WE HAVE TO DO SOME-THING.

SO NOW, I WILL SEPARATE IT FROM THE SHIP USING THAT TRAIT.

SINCE THE OLD DAYS, THEY HAVE SAID THAT CENTIPEDES GATHER WHEN YOU BURN ONE.

ISN'T THE CENTIPEDES GATHERING AT BURNING SMELLS THING JUST SUPER-STITION?

WAIT A MINUTE ...

OLD PEOPLE CALL THAT A NEST.

ONCE THE CHILDREN ARE BORN FROM THE EGGS, THEY WILL BE PROTECTED FOR ABOUT 2-3 MONTHS UNTIL THEY ARE INDEPEN-DENT.

BUT CENTIPEDES ATTRACT LOTS OF MATURE INDIVIDUALS DURING MATING SEASON.

THEY SAY THAT IT'S SUPERSTITION THAT CENTIPEDES CREATE NESTS,

ITS PHEROMONES DISPERSE INTO THE AIR DRAWING OUT THOSE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX THAT LAY HIDDEN IN THE AREA.

AND THEN WHEN THEY ROAST A CENTIPEDE DURING MATING SEASON BY SPRINKLING BOILING WATER TO KILL IT,

BUT IF THERE ARE ANY LURKING NEARBY, THEN THEY SHOULD REVEAL THEM-SELVES.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S EFFECTIVE IN ATTRACTING CENTIPEDES FROM A DISTANCE,

AND SO THE MALE BEETLES WERE DRAWN TOWARD IT.

IN PARTICULAR, SILKWORMS ARE FAMOUS AS INSECTS SENSITIVE TO PHERO-MONES.

WHEN COLLECTING INSECTS, I ONCE OBSERVED MALE BEETLES GATHERING OVER THE CORPSE OF A FEMALE BEETLE THAT WAS RUN OVER BY A CAR.

THAT IS BECAUSE EVEN IF A FEMALE IS DEAD AND DESTROYED, IT STILL CONTINUES TO EXCRETE PHERO-MONES.

WHAT SPECIFI-CALLY DO YOU WANT US TO DO!?

SO!

CATCH AND BURN THEM, YOU SAY...

H-!-!-

AND BURN THEM ALL AT ONCE.

I WANT YOU TO CATCH AS MANY CENTIPEDES AS POSSIBLE.

I DO NOT KNOW WHICH KIND OF PHEROMONES WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON THAT SCOLOPEN-DRID,

SO I NEED YOU TO CATCH AS MANY DIFFERENT TYPES AND KINDS AS POSSIBLE.

RISK ?

BUT, THE RISK WILL BE GREAT...

THE STRAT-EGY HAS BEEN DE-CIDED !

LET'S GET THIS DONE QUICK-LY!!

WHEN WE BURN THAT MANY CEN-TIPEDES,

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT IT'LL SUMMON OTHER HUGE CENTI-PEDES.

BUT...

IF WE DO WHAT YOU SAY,

THEN THE PATROL BOAT WILL SINK.

WE CAN'T DO THAT!

W...

SO, LET'S DIVIDE INTO TWO GROUPS AND ACT IMMEDI-ATELY.

WELL THEN, LET'S HAVE ONE TEAM LURE IT OFF TO A DIFFERENT SPOT, AND ANOTHER TEAM TO DEPRIVE THE PATROL BOAT OF A LIFEBOAT.

I'M IN-JURED! I CAN'T GO!

HEADING TOWARD THE PATROL BOAT WITH ME WILL BE... KAI.

UNDER-STOOD.

YOU OUTTA BE MORE KIND TO INJURED PEOPLE.

BE-CAUSE WE'D HAVE TO DRAG YOUR SLOW ASS.

DUH...

.....

I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

HIDE IN THE AREA, PLEASE.

FROM HERE, LEAVES OF THE TREES GROW THICK AND THE FLOW OF AIR IS DELAYED.

I WILL BE SAFE, RIGHT?

I THINK THAT WILL KEEP THE BUGS AWAY.

IF YOU SMOKE THIS TORCH WITH THE GREEN LEAVES OF A MUGWORT, THEN THE SMOKE WILL STAY.

YOU WON'T BE SAFER IN ANY OTHER PLACE.

Boy

MISUZU! YOU'LL LOOK AFTER ME, WON'T YOU!?

PLEASE TRY NOT TO MOVE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

MOREOVER, SINCE BUGS ARE THE KIND THAT ARE ATTRACTED BY CARBON DIOXIDE AND SWEAT,

DO NOT POINT GUNS AT PEOPLE !

MY ROLE IS TO PROTECT BUG GIRL WITH THIS!

DON'T FALL ASLEEP !!

SINCE I ONLY SURVIVED THIS FAR BECAUSE OF TEA-CHER,

I WILL ACT TOGETHER WITH ORIBE.

I'M SORRY FOR EVERY-THING THAT I HAVE DONE.

LET US COMBINE OUR STRENGTH AND ESCAPE FROM THIS ISLAND!!

I'LL GO TO THE SHIP.

AO-YAMA.

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,

I'M HURT, BUT I'M ONE OF THE TWO PEOPLE HERE THAT KNOWS ITS INTERNAL STRUC-TURE.

!!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO LET THAT GIRL THERE HAVE A REST.

EVEN IF I GO WITH YOU ALL, I'LL JUST SLOW YOU DOWN...

I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE ...

ARE YOU OKAY ?

YOU CAN STAY HERE AND WATCH OVER KAMIJO UNTIL WE COME BACK, SUZUKI.

DON'T PUSH YOUR-SELF...

WELL THEN!

TCH.

RIGHT!

EVERY-ONE, DON'T OVER EXERT YOUR-SELVES!

WILL IT BE EASY FOR US TO FIND CENTI-PEDES ?

WE'LL BE FINE.

BECAUSE SOME SHOULD BE MOVING WITHIN RANGE OF THE SHIP RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM THE BUGS THAT HAVE BECOME GIGANTIC, THEY MAY BE OTHERS. PLEASE, BE CAREFUL.

...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

HOW COME CENTIPEDES BECAME GIGANTIC, BUT COCK-ROACHES DIDN'T?

THAT'S BECAUSE THE COCK-ROACHES RELATIVES GOT BIGGER INSTEAD.

THAT'S WHY THERE ARE NO HUGE COCK-ROACHES ?

*DICTYOPTERA SUPERORDER

WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN ...?

BUT BY EATING MEAT, THEIR RELATIVES* WHO EXIST STRENGTHEN THEIR AGILITY AND OFFENSIVE ABILITIES.

THE MOVEMENTS OF HERBIVOROUS COCK-ROACHES ARE SLOW...

WITH THE COCKROACH, THERE ARE RELATIVES OF THEM CALLED TERMITES WHO ALSO DID NOT BECOME BIGGER AND CAME TO LIVE SAFELY ON WOOD.

THE PRAYING MANTIS.

WHAT IF A PRAYING MANTIS APPEARS?

YOU'RE WALKING WITHOUT A CARE.

THEY BECAME GIGANTIC ONLY BECAUSE THEIR KIND WAS ALLOWED TO THRIVE.

SO, THE PRAYING MANTIS BECAME GIGANTIC!?

ALL BUGS BEHAVE THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ARE WITHIN RANGE OF A CENTIPEDE'S ACTIVITIES.

WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.

I DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY WILL BECOME ADULTS.

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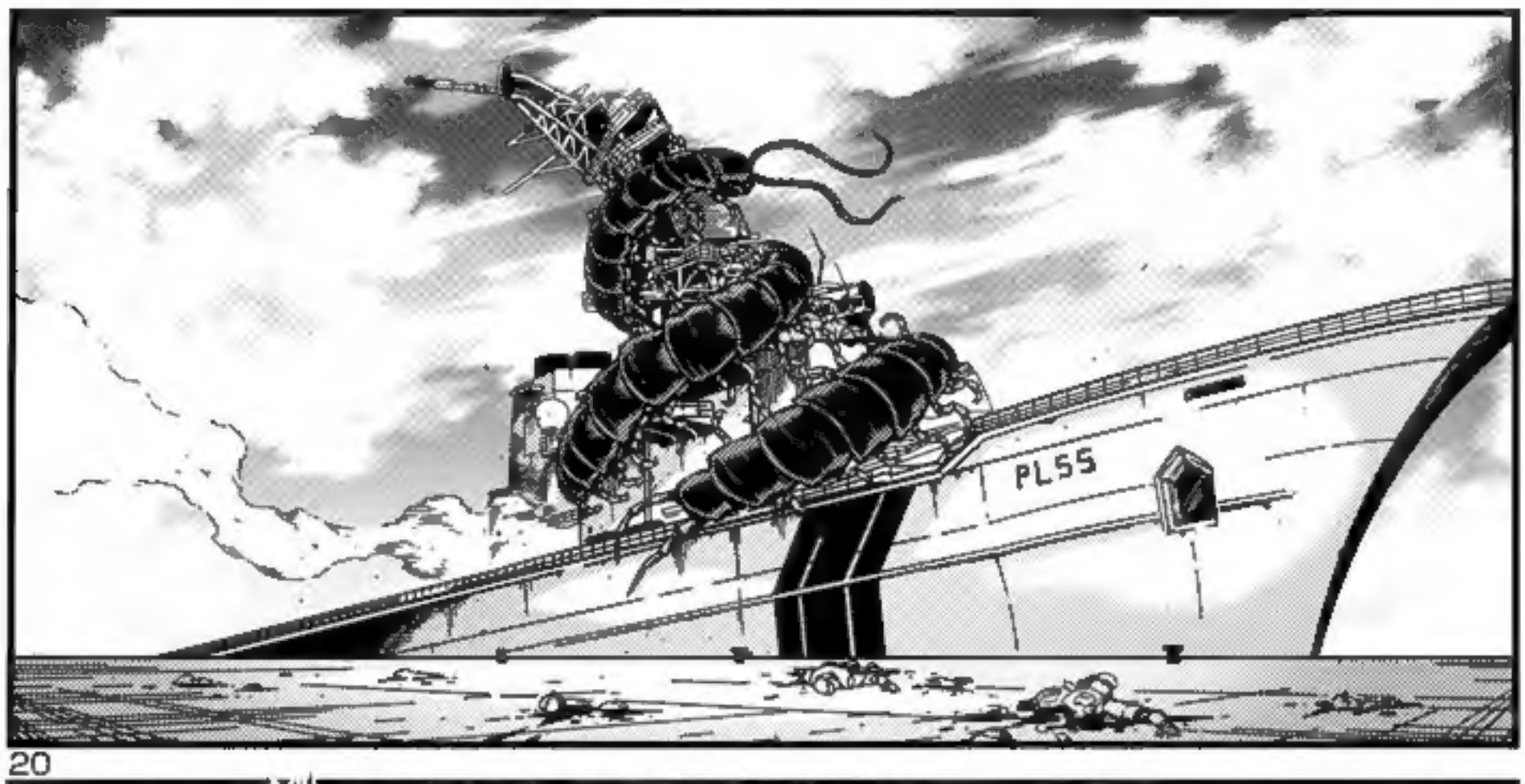
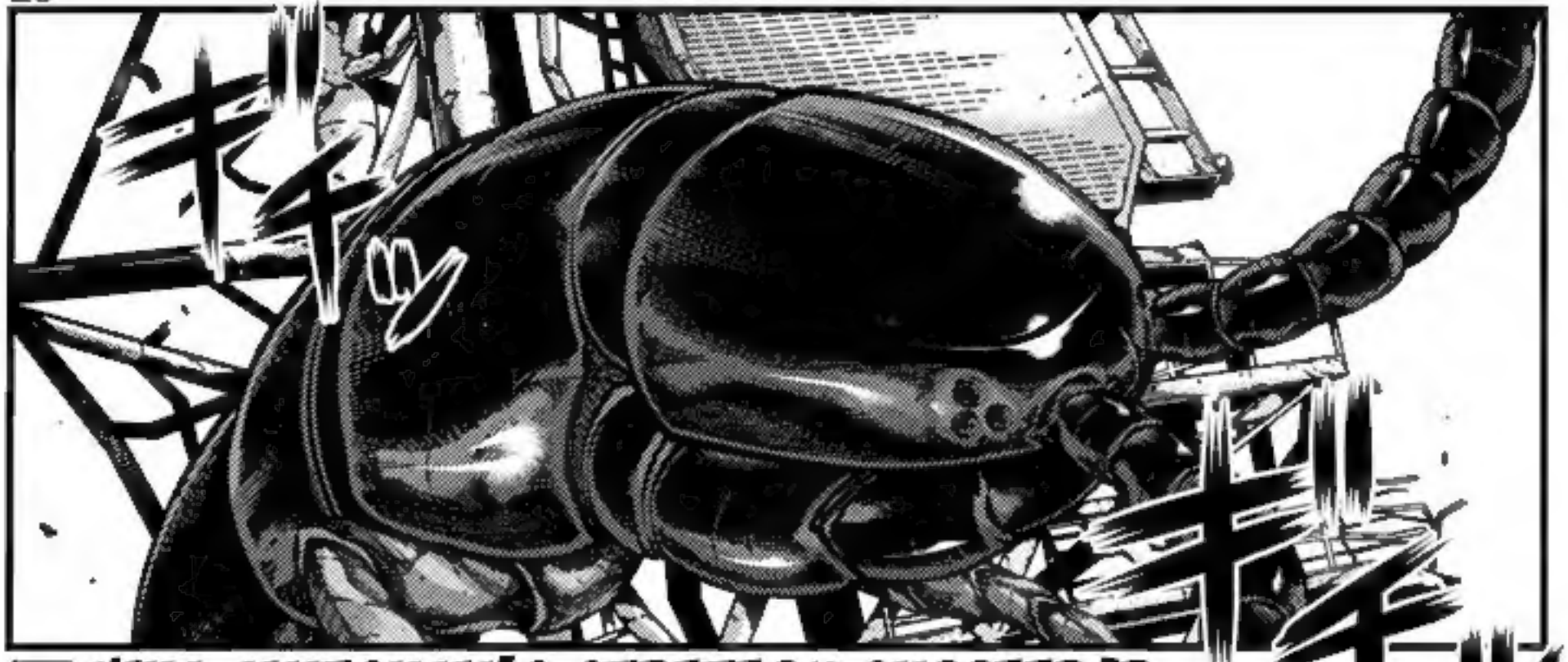
SINCE THE CURRENT STAGE OF THE PRAYING MANTIS IS LARVA,

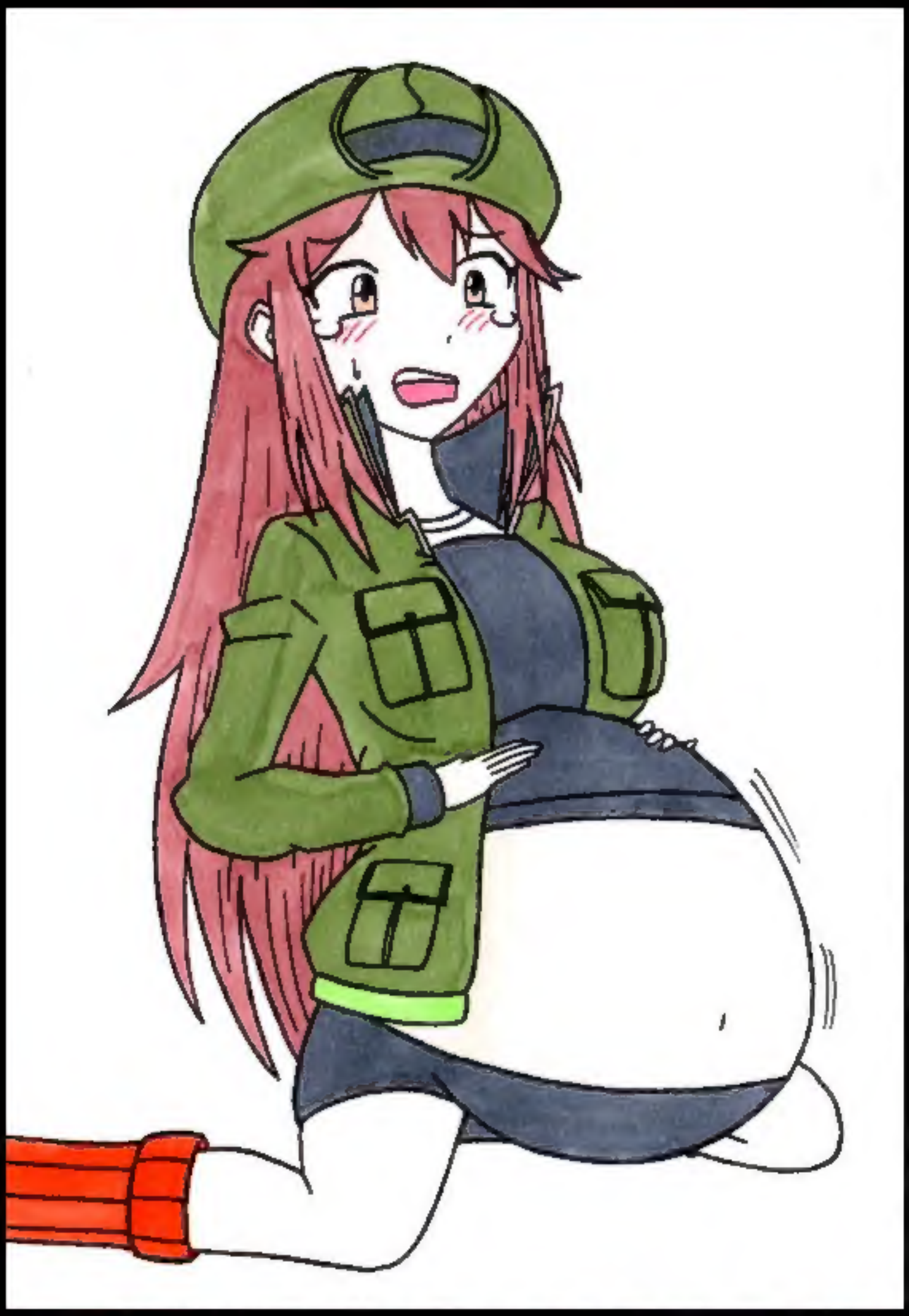
ARE PRAYING MANTISES WEAKER THAN CENTI-PEDES...?





WILL MUTSUMI'S STRATEGY SUCCEED!?

Endgame right here, brothers



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